

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application Claims 6-19, of which Claims 6, 10, and 14 are independent. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Each of independent Claims 6, 10, and 14 is directed to an image forming apparatus with a sheet mounting unit for mounting sheets and with image forming means for forming an image on a sheet supplied from the sheet mounting unit, the image forming means being adjustable in a direction transverse to a direction of conveying of the sheet. Claim 6 includes sheet position detection means for detecting a position of the sheet while temporarily stopped by a stop means in a direction transverse to the conveying direction of the sheet. Claims 10 and 14 recite sheet position detection means for detecting a position of the sheet in a direction transverse to the conveying direction of the sheet while temporarily stopped.

Each of the independent claims has been amended so as to more clearly recite that the sheet position is detected while the sheet is temporarily stopped.

Each of Claims 6-19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Löffler, Takami, et al. and Ito, et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Watanabe was the only applied reference discussed in the Official Action. In Watanabe there is featured sensors which detect the position of the sheet in a direction perpendicular to the conveying direction of the sheet. Those sensors are described as optical sensors and the specification states that the magnitude of deviation of the sheet in the direction

perpendicular to the conveying direction is measured so that the image forming position can be corrected. (See, column 8, line 49-column 9, line 7). However, Applicants respectfully submit that in Watanabe the detection of the lateral position of the sheet does not occur at the same time as required by the claims of the present application. More specifically, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest detection of the lateral position of the sheet at the time that the sheet has been temporarily stopped by either the stop means (Claim 1) or skew correction means (Claims 10 and 14). Accordingly, Watanabe fails to teach or suggest the salient features of the invention as recited in each of the independent claims of the above application.

Applicants have also reviewed the remaining applied art of record and respectfully submit that such art does not satisfy the above-described shortcomings of Watanabe.

Applicants' invention as featured in each of the independent claims provides the technique of temporarily stopping the sheet and detecting the lateral position of that sheet while the sheet is temporarily stopped to thereby avoid erroneous detections and enhance the accuracy of the detection being made. None of the applied art is believed to teach or suggest at least that salient feature of the invention.

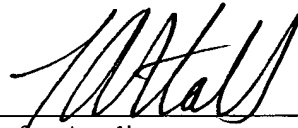
For the foregoing reasons Applicants respectfully submit that each of independent Claims 6, 10, and 14 are patentable over the applied art of record.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', written over a horizontal line.

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